

components are identified by the same reference numerals as in the first embodiment, and like descriptions will not be repeated. Each layer and each member are drawn in a different scale in each drawing so as to be large enough to be visible.

[0073] As shown in FIGS. 8 and 9, a touch panel 50 has a flat lower substrate 51 and a flat upper substrate 52 opposing each other with a predetermined spacing therebetween. Inner surfaces of the lower substrate 51 and the upper substrate 52 respectively have a lower transparent electrode 55 and an upper transparent electrode 56, formed on substantially the entire surfaces corresponding to at least an input area by a finger, a pen, or the like. The lower transparent electrode 55 and the upper transparent electrode 56 are respectively provided with pluralities of projections 61 and 62 in a respectively predetermined pattern.

[0074] Because the lower substrate 51 and the upper substrate 52, and the lower transparent electrode 55 and the upper transparent electrode 56 are made of the same materials as the corresponding ones in the first embodiment, descriptions about the materials will not be repeated. Similarly to the first embodiment, the upper substrate 52 and the lower substrate 51 of the touch panel 50 are assumed to lie at the operator side and the display device side, respectively.

[0075] The projections 61 and 62 respectively formed on the inner surfaces of the lower transparent electrode 55 and the upper transparent electrode 56 are configured to have the similar shape and pattern as the projections formed on the inner surfaces of the substrates in the first embodiment.

[0076] That is, as shown in FIG. 8, each of the projections 61 and 62 can be formed as a truncated quadrangular pyramid, similarly to the projections in the first embodiment. Reference numerals 61A and 62A respectively represent the bottoms of the projections 61 and 62, and reference numerals 61B and 62B respectively represent the tops of the projections 61 and 62. The cross-sectional area of each of the projections 61, parallel to the outer surface of the lower substrate 51, is formed to decrease continuously from the bottom 61A to the top 61B of the projection 61. The same applies to the combination of each of the projections 62 of the upper substrate 52, and the bottom 62A and the top 62B of the projection 62.

[0077] The bottom 61A of the projection 61 lies on the display device side (the lower side shown in the drawing) and the top 61B of the projection 61 lies on the operator side (the upper side shown in the drawing). On the other hand, the bottom 62A of the projection 62 lies on the operator side (the upper side shown in the drawing) and the top 62B of the projection 62 lies on the display device side (the lower side shown in the drawing).

[0078] As shown in FIG. 8, the projections 61 and 62 are arranged on the inner surfaces of the lower transparent electrode 55 and the upper transparent electrode 56, respectively, in a substantially periodical manner in three directions shown in the drawing; the vertical and horizontal directions which are orthogonal to each other, and the diagonal direction, thus being in a substantially matrix configuration as a whole, similarly to the projections in the first embodiment.

[0079] Similarly to the projections in the first embodiment, pitches P4, P5 and P6 of the projections 61 and 62 in

the horizontal, vertical, and diagonal directions shown in the drawing are arranged to be shorter than any wavelength of visible light. The pitches P4, P5 and P6 of the projections 61 and 62 are preferably equal to or shorter than about one fifth of the shortest wavelength of visible light, that is, about 450 nm. The shorter the pitches P4, P5 and P6 of the projections 61 and 62, the better, however, the pitches P4, P5 and P6 of the projections 61 and 62 are preferably arranged to range from 10 to 100 nm since pitches shorter than 10 nm cause the fabrication step of the projections 61 and 62 to become more complicated. Though illustrated in an exaggerated manner, the pitches P4, P5 and P6 of the projections 61 and 62 are extremely small, i.e., on the order of nanometers, while the distance between the lower transparent electrode 55 and the upper transparent electrode 56 is on the order of micrometers.

[0080] In the second embodiment, as described above, the lower transparent electrode 55 having the large number of fine projections 61 arranged with the substantially periodical pitches P4, P5, and P6 shorter than any wavelength of visible light is formed on the inner surface of the flat lower substrate 51. The same applies to the combination of the upper transparent electrode 56, the upper substrate 52, and the large number of projections 62.

[0081] Thus, projections and depressions having a predetermined shape are also formed on the inner surface of the lower transparent electrode 55 with the substantially periodical pitches P4, P5, and P6 shorter than any wavelength of visible light. The same applies to the combination of the upper transparent electrode 56 and the large number of fine projections 62. With this structure, the light reflection and diffraction at the boundary between the air space 13 and the lower transparent electrode 55 and at the boundary between the air space 13 and the upper transparent electrode 56 can be reduced, thereby providing the analog resistive contact-type touch panel 50 having high light transmittance.

[0082] According to the second embodiment, the lower transparent electrode 55 and the upper transparent electrode 56 are provided with the projections 61 and 62, respectively. Accordingly, both kinds of light reflection decrease: one for light incident from the operator side and reflected at the surface of the lower transparent electrode 55, and the other for light emitted from the display device side and reflected at the surface of the upper transparent electrode 56.

[0083] When the projections 61 and 62 are formed only in one direction in a substantially periodical manner, polarized light travelling orthogonal to the direction does not see the periodic structure of the projections 61 and 62. That is, the reflection and diffraction of the polarized light are not reduced at the boundary between the air space 13 and the lower transparent electrode 55 and at the boundary between the air space 13 and the upper transparent electrode 56. In the second embodiment, however, the reflection and diffraction of all visible light at the boundary between the air space 13 and the lower transparent electrode 55 and at the boundary between the air space 13 and the upper transparent electrode 56 can be reduced by arranging the projections 61 and 62 in a substantially periodical manner in three directions including two mutually orthogonal directions.

[0084] Further, in the second embodiment, each of the projections 61 can be formed such that the cross-sectional area of the projection 61, parallel to the surface of the lower